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PHILADELPHIA AREA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2000

Workplace fatalities totaled 101 in 2000 for the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA), not much different from the 97 fatal injuries recorded in 1999, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that one-third of the work-related fatalities in the CMSA were the result of falls to a lower level (18), as from a ladder, roof or scaffold, or were homicides (16). Highway crashes, the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities nationwide, accounted for only nine deaths in the Philadelphia area, or less than one-tenth of the total. Over the year, the number of fatal highway accidents was down by five, and for the first time since the metropolitan series began in 1993, was in the single digits. The number of homicides, while edging up three from 1999, has dropped considerably from the series high of 42 seven years ago. (See table A.)

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in the Philadelphia CMSA and City by selected major event groups, 1993-2000

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Homicides		Falls to lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Philadelphia CMSA							
1993	127	17	13	42	33	18	14
1994	99	17	17	24	24	15	15
1995	97	15	15	26	27	9	9
1996	119	11	9	36	30	17	14
1997	102	19	19	26	25	15	15
1998	80	18	23	14	18	11	14
1999	97	14	14	13	13	14	14
2000	101	9	9	16	16	18	18
Philadelphia City							
1993	46	--	--	25	54	5	11
1994	32	--	--	11	34	6	19
1995	30	--	--	13	43	--	--
1996	46	--	--	22	48	8	17
1997	37	6	16	17	46	--	--
1998	23	--	--	10	43	--	--
1999	33	--	--	5	15	6	18
2000	23	--	--	13	57	--	--

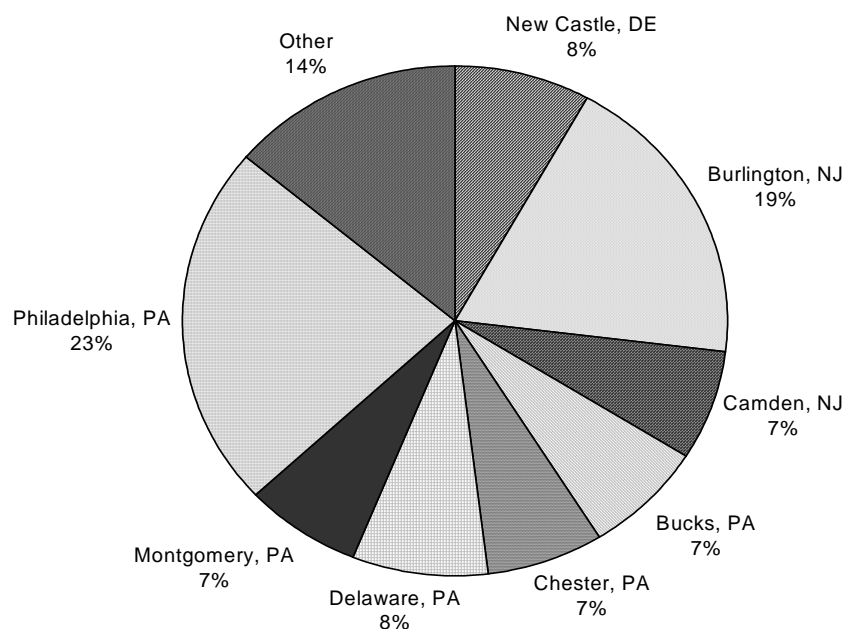
NOTE: Categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

With 23 workplace fatalities in 2000, the City of Philadelphia accounted for nearly a quarter of the CMSA total. Homicides (13) were the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities in the City, accounting for 57 percent of the total. In fact, about four of every five homicides in the Philadelphia CMSA occurred in the City. When a motive could be ascertained for the homicides occurring in Philadelphia City, more than half took place during the commission of a robbery.

While workplace homicides occurred more frequently in the City, most fatal occupational injuries in the CMSA took place in the 13 surrounding counties (77 percent). Nineteen work-related fatalities occurred in Burlington, New Jersey, eight each in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Castle, Delaware, and seven each in Bucks, Chester and Montgomery, Pennsylvania and Camden, New Jersey. (See chart 1.)

Job-related deaths in Pennsylvania fell by 10 percent over the year to 199 in 2000, a decline of 22. As for the nation as a whole, highway crashes (41), continued to be the leading cause of workplace fatalities accounting for over one-fifth of the State total. (Nationally, nearly a quarter of all fatal work injuries were the result of highway accidents.) Falls to a lower level (27), struck by an object (24), non-highway incidents (those occurring on a farm or industrial premises), (23), and homicides (22) together made up almost half of the statewide fatalities.

Chart 1. Percent distribution of workplace fatalities in the Philadelphia CMSA by county of occurrence, 2000



Nationwide, the number of fatal work injuries was 5,915 in 2000, a decline of about 2 percent from the previous year despite an increase in employment. The number of job-related deaths from highway crashes declined for the first time since the fatality census was conducted in 1992. Fatal injuries resulting from electrocutions and being struck by an object were also down. Fatal job-related falls to lower level and homicides, on the other hand, both increased. On average, about 16 workers were fatally injured each day in the United States during 2000. (See table B.)

Highway crashes continued as the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities in the nation during 2000, accounting for 23 percent of the deaths. Homicides and falls to lower level each made up 11 percent of national fatalities, and workers being struck by an object accounted for 10 percent of the total. Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data is available on the BLS Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Selective Access, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. The Mid-Atlantic Information Office can provide assistance accessing these files by calling (215) 597-3282.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected major event groups, 1992-2000

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Homicides		Falls to lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	1,044	17	507	8
1993	6,331	1,243	20	1,074	17	533	8
1994	6,632	1,343	20	1,080	16	580	9
1995	6,275	1,346	21	1,036	17	578	9
1996	6,202	1,346	22	927	15	610	10
1997	6,238	1,393	22	860	14	653	10
1998	6,055	1,442	24	714	12	625	10
1999 ¹	6,054	1,496	25	651	11	634	10
2000	5,915	1,363	23	677	11	659	11

¹ The BLS national news release issued August 17, 2000, reported a total of 6,023 fatal work injuries for calendar year 1999. Since then, an additional 31 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 1999 to 6,054.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in the Philadelphia CMSA and City:

- In the CMSA, two-thirds of those who died from a workplace injury were white, 17 percent were Hispanic or Latino and 12 percent were black or African American. In the City, 43 percent were white and 26 percent were Hispanic or Latino.
- Workers 25-54 years old -- the prime working age group -- made up 79 percent of the CMSA's and 74 percent of the city's work-related fatalities in 2000.
- Eighty-three percent of workers killed on-the-job in the CMSA and 57 percent in the City worked for wages and salaries.
- Four industry divisions made up over two-thirds of the workplace fatalities in the CMSA -- construction, retail trade, services and government. In the City, retail trade accounted for over half of the deaths. (See table 3.)
- Four occupations at the detailed level accounted for 38 percent of all work-related fatalities in the CMSA--motor vehicle operators (13), non-supervisory construction tradesmen (9), construction laborers (8), and sales supervisors and proprietors (8). (See table 4.)

TECHNICAL NOTES

Data presented in this release is from the 2000 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a program conducted jointly with the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Departments of Health, Delaware Department of Labor, and Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. All 50 States and the District of Columbia participate in the CFOI program. The program provides workplace fatality data by occupational, industrial, and demographic characteristics as well as type of event and is designed to provide the safety and health community with verified counts of fatal work injuries as well as basic information on these deaths that can be used to help prevent future fatalities in the workplace.

Information on fatal occupational injuries was compiled from a variety of administrative sources including death certificates, motor vehicle traffic accident reports, medical examiners reports, State and Federal workers' compensation reports, and other government investigative reports. Each fatality was substantiated by either two independent source documents or one source document and a follow-up questionnaire to the employer or other contact (excluding next-of-kin) who had knowledge about the circumstances of the incident.

TECHNICAL NOTES (continued)

While the purpose of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries is to compile a complete count of traumatic workplace fatalities, information was also collected on fatal occupational illnesses that were recognized as work-related or that occurred at work. (There is not necessarily a causal relationship implied for illness deaths occurring at work.) A comprehensive count of fatalities resulting from occupational illnesses cannot be produced from current data largely because of the latency period associated with many occupational illnesses, as well as the difficulty in associating illnesses with exposures in the workplace. Therefore, fatal occupational illnesses are excluded from the tables.

The Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md., CMSA consists of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Atlantic, Cape May, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries in the Philadelphia CMSA and City by event or exposure, 2000

Event or exposure ¹	<u>Philadelphia CMSA</u>		<u>Philadelphia City</u>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	101	100	23	100
Transportation incidents	33	33	--	--
Highway.....	9	9	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	6	6	--	--
Worker struck by vehicle.....	7	7	--	--
Aircraft	13	13	--	--
Aircraft, nec	10	10	--	--
Assaults and violent acts	19	19	13	57
Homicides.....	16	16	13	57
Shootings	14	14	12	52
Contact with objects and equipment	19	19	5	22
Struck by object.....	11	11	--	--
Struck by falling object.....	8	8	--	--
Falls	20	20	--	--
Fall to lower level	18	18	--	--
Fall from roof.....	5	5	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	9	9	--	--

¹Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries in the Philadelphia CMSA and City by selected demographic characteristics, 2000

Characteristic	<u>Philadelphia CMSA</u>		<u>Philadelphia City</u>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	101	100	23	100
<u>Employee status</u>				
Wage and salary workers.....	84	83	13	57
Self-employed ¹	17	17	10	43
<u>Age</u>				
under 25 years.....	7	7	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	26	26	6	26
35 to 44 years.....	28	28	5	22
45 to 54 years.....	26	26	6	26
55 to 64 years.....	10	10	--	--
<u>Race and Hispanic origin</u>				
White	67	66	10	43
Hispanic or Latino	17	17	6	26
Black or African American.....	12	12	--	--

¹Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries in the Philadelphia CMSA and City by industry, 2000

Industry	SIC code ¹	<u>Philadelphia CMSA</u>		<u>Philadelphia City</u>	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....		101	100	23	100
Private sector:		86	85	21	91
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing		10	10	--	--
Agricultural services.....	07	8	8	--	--
Landscape and horticultural services	078	8	8	--	--
Construction		22	22	--	--
General building contractors.....	15	12	12	--	--
Residential building construction	152	6	6	--	--
Special trade contractors.....	17	9	9	--	--
Manufacturing		5	5	--	--
Transportation and public utilities		12	12	--	--
Retail trade		17	17	12	52
Food stores.....	54	5	5	--	--
Services		16	16	5	22
Auto repair, services, and parking	75	7	7	5	22
Government ²		15	15	--	--
Federal		9	9	--	--
Local		5	5	--	--

¹Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition.

²Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries in the Philadelphia CMSA and City by occupation, 2000

Occupation ¹	<u>Philadelphia CMSA</u>		<u>Philadelphia City</u>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	101	100	23	100
Managerial and professional specialty	12	12	--	--
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	9	9	--	--
Technical, sales, and administrative support	18	18	8	35
Technical and related support occupations.....	6	6	--	--
Sales occupations.....	10	10	8	35
Supervisors and proprietors, sales	8	8	7	30
Service occupations	7	7	--	--
Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations	9	9	--	--
Other agricultural and related occupations	8	8	--	--
Related agricultural occupations.....	7	7	--	--
Precision production, craft, and repair	22	22	--	--
Mechanics and repairers	7	7	--	--
Mechanics and repairers, except supervisors	7	7	--	--
Construction trades	12	12	--	--
Construction trades, except supervisors	9	9	--	--
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	31	31	7	30
Transportation and material moving operations	16	16	5	22
Motor vehicle operators	13	13	5	22
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	12	12	--	--
Construction laborers.....	8	8	--	--

¹Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.